



COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY

Glendale Narrows Riverwalk–Community Meeting #1 “Jewel at the Bend”

OVERVIEW:

On September 11, 2014 approximately 70 people gathered to learn about the Glendale Narrows Riverwalk project and to provide input on the location and design of a proposed bridge or bridges across the Los Angeles River and the Verdugo Wash. The meeting was the first of three community workshops.

Riverwalk is a unique community amenity that will increase access for residents and visitors to the Los Angeles River and Griffith Park. Opened to the public in 2012, Riverwalk currently provides a recreational trail, two small parks, public art, and an equestrian facility. It runs from Bette Davis Park on the west to Flower Street on the east and includes a trail south of Flower Street toward the Verdugo Wash (the 134 Freeway).

The City is currently expanding Riverwalk to connect the two trail segments. The project will include bridging an existing storm water culvert and adding two new parks – one at the culvert location to be known as “Flower Plaza” and the other, “Confluence Park”, at the southeast end of the bike path at the Verdugo Wash.

The City is also engaged in a Bridge Selection Study to determine potential locations and designs for the bridge over the Los Angeles River, which will also inform the design of the Verdugo Wash bridge. The Study will provide the background and concepts necessary to seek further funding for the project.

At the community meeting, members of the City-selected design team lead by Atkins presented the project background and alternative bridge location options. The 2011 Riverwalk Master Plan, prepared by the City of Glendale, was referenced and is the basis of the alternate bridge location study. The three potential bridge locations each offer unique opportunities and constraints. Conceptual ideas

MEETING LOCATION:
Pacific Community
Center Gymnasium
501 S. Pacific Avenue
Glendale, CA 91204

MEETING DATE/TIME:
September 11, 2014
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



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for bridge designs were shown to stimulate public discussion and community input was requested in order to assist in the selection process.

Outreach Conducted for the September 11, 2014 Workshop

Three weeks prior to the September 11, 2014 Community Meeting #1, Katherine Padilla & Associates (KPA) conducted various public engagement strategies including stakeholder education and involvement of elected officials and members of neighborhood associations, recreational, environmental, community-based and business organizations, and other interested persons. KPA provided:

- One-to-one stakeholder briefings for elected officials including City of Los Angeles councilmembers, California State offices and key stakeholder community organizations;
- A phone call and follow-up email providing project information and a flyer notice for over 20 community organizations;
- Attendance at Glendale City Council and community organization board meetings in the City of Glendale and neighborhoods of Griffith Park/Los Feliz and Atwater Village providing announcement of Community Meeting #1 and meeting flyers to distribute to community members;
- Flyers distributed at public counters in adjacent Los Angeles neighborhoods as well as public counters throughout the City of Glendale;
- Two e-mail blasts notifying community members of the September 11th Community Meeting #1.

Public Comments



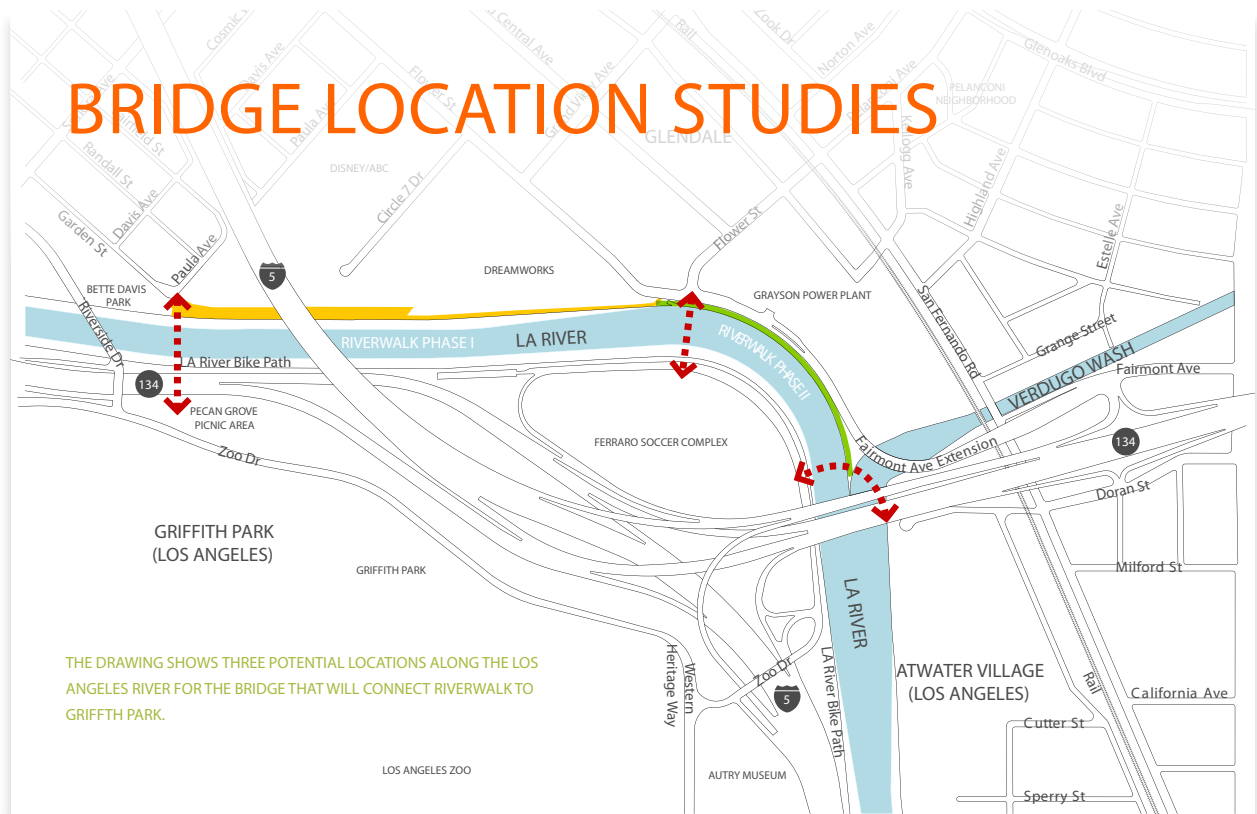
After the presentations, Sam Gennawey of KPA facilitated dialogue about the project. Katherine Padilla Otanez captured the comments during the discussion.

REACTIONS TO THE EASTERN LOCATION:

- Would love a bridge for equestrians – Riverside Bridge will assist with that
- Maybe a multi-use bridge at the confluence

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REACTIONS TO THE CENTRAL LOCATION WHICH FOR MANY SEEMED A HAPPY MEDIUM:

- Favor locations 2 & 3 to get to Griffith Park
- Bridge at Flower (Location 2) or 3rd location seems more useful (than Location 1).
- Location 2- Best location for Disney and Dreamworks
- Lots of parking near north park

REACTIONS TO THE SOUTHERN LOCATION:

- Like that it's near Chevy Chase and Atwater (2nd Location okay, 3rd Location better)
- Connects with Brewery - good
- Location #3 preferred because it provides South Glendale access

HABITAT COMMENTS:

- How does the project fit into river conservation?

- Consider wildlife habitat.
- The birds won't leave.
- The River is major migratory point for birds; keep impacts in mind.

DESIGN COMMENTS:

- The bridge should be simple but elegant with artistic design.
- Ensure adequate alternative ways to provide lighting for security and safety.
- Simple design is better.
- Keep in mind that the bridge should not compete with the natural setting, views of the mountains in the background.
- Provide bi-lingual bridge signage at Cypress/Atwater, maybe at the mid-point of bridge.
- Have path on easterly side—too many pedestrians

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- Width of bridge needs to allow for horses, bikes, people.
- Ensure location of bridge has public transit access.
- Will there be ADA access?
- Consider what the Bike Path and River will look like in 20 years; design accordingly.
- Need to consider a “greener” –more environmentally –friendly and natural-looking bridge.

PROCESS COMMENTS:

- Share info.
- Involve the youth.
- Coordinate with Metro.
- Provide a map that shows other projects in context, i.e., La Kretz Bridge and other Bridges in Atwater.
- Look at all bridges proposed to span the River—needs to be connectivity.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Need to look at entire composition; the River overall and where bridge crossing is placed or others planned.
- What about Skateboards? (Skateboards are not allowed).
- Slope of Los Feliz bridge is too steep to comfortably and safely accommodate bicycle riders—consider the slope as you design the bridge.
- Any plans between Riverside and Los Feliz? Confluence doesn't seem the safest location for crossing, consider safety first.
- Only two footings/piers are allowed in the River by Army Corps of Engineers. Consider that in designing the bridge span.
- All piles serving as anchors for bridge may need Caltrans review.

COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

- Hi Peter,

Would it be possible to obtain a copy of the presentation materials featured at last night's Glendale Narrows Riverwalk Bridge Connections Phase III Workshop?

Thanks.

- Hi Peter,

I'm the artist / landscape designer that developed the concept, design and planning for the Public Art works for Phase 1 at the Glendale Narrows Riverwalk Park with North East Trees. I just learned today that there is a community meeting this evening about the future bridges across the L.A. River. I will be there tonight and I'm looking forward to meeting you. In case you haven't seen it, here's a link to a facebook page detailing the timeline of our work on the Riverwalk Public Art and park. At the time of our meetings with the Art Committee at the Community Services & Parks dept. I developed a concept for a Land Art piece for Phase 2. Not sure if that is appropriate for the current spaces or goals. The concept is depicted in one of the albums on the web site below.

<https://www.facebook.com/GlendaleNarrowsRiverwalk>

You can also see some samples of my highly very artistic and sustainable landscape design projects folders on Houzz. A second profile with my art and art projects is in the works.

<http://www.houzz.com/pro/ketti-kupper/ketti-kupper-conscious-life-design>

I'm interested in hearing how things are developing at the Flower Plaza Park and the Confluence Park projects, and I'd be pleased to consult or be involved with the team.

Thanks, hope to see you soon.

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- To whom it may concern,

My name is Kristy Noochlaor and I am the field deputy for the Silver Lake and Los Feliz area at Council District 4. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend today's meeting but I was wondering if there will be minutes taken? Please let me know.

- Dear Peter:

I am a longtime Glendale resident and avid bicyclist and writing at the suggestion of Erik at Walk/Bike Glendale. I am very enthusiastic about the idea of connecting the two banks of the LA River at the Verdugo Wash. I've long wondered why a bridge could not be anchored to the 134 Freeway bridge overhead. Obviously, a separate independently designed bike pedestrian bridge would be preferable, but if money is short, is it possible to hang one from the freeway bridge overhead? Also, I have often wondered why a bike, pedestrian bridge could not be laid over the top of the already existing pylons from what I believe was the Pacific Electric train bridge over the river just south of Glendale Avenue. It's wide enough to make a terrific 'Highline Park' type of mini-park over the river. It's west of your jurisdiction, but I think needs to be explored. As it is, bikers and walkers coming from the south on the river trail, must exit through a hole in the freeway fence onto the off ramp and then the sidewalk, or cross under on the bike path and double back to the sidewalk to get to the east side of the river. Both very unsatisfactory. I am unable to attend the planning meeting on this, but wanted to add my suggestions.

- Hello,

Thank you so much for having the community meeting to inform the surrounding residents, businesses and the population impacted by the future developments. We are all very excited to see that the city of Glendale is making this an interactive process.

I do have to preface my statement below/attached by saying that I am familiar with the Design Guidelines that were agreed upon in 2003 for the Grand Central Creative Campus (GC3) and occasionally commute to GC3 by bike from my home in the Los Feliz area of Los Angeles. Thank you.

COMMENTS SUBMITTED VIA COMMENT CARDS

- **Comment:** As the Glendale Grand Central Creative Campus (GC3) continues to densify, it is important to provide alternative modes of transportation to help off-set additional road traffic to an already congested location. Bridge #2 (Flower St.) would be the best, most direct path for these pedestrian/bike commuters. It would avoid urbanizing the neighborhood at bridge site #1 (Paula) by not overly stressing their residential roads with hordes of bike commuters.
- **Comment:** An aesthetic comment: The River has been wrapped in a concrete straightjacket for forty years. Please avoid a highly industrialized/futuristic design. It would be helpful to imagine the river as it would be post Alt. 20 to select what would be appropriate.
- **Comment:** Thanks. I learned a lot.
- **Comment:** Keep in mind the ecology (especially bird migrations, fish and coyotes) of the area. Tasteful simplicity in construction. Public Access!!!
- **Comment:** Excited to learn about this project and what it will bring to the neighborhoods in the area. Incorporate the wetlands/natural resources. Select building materials that create an accessible route for everyone-cyclists, pedestrians and those who use wheelchairs or hand cycling as a mode of transportation.
- **Comment:** I fully support any path using Doran to cross the LA River. I would like to see a Glendale

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side developed further (beyond what is behind Dreamworks). Let’s expand and make this goal.

- **Comment:** The LA River Revitalization Corporation supports the connectivity options through the Glendale Riverwalk Phase III efforts to the Los Angeles community of Atwater Park. Given the future river access “landing” co-adjacent to LA Kretz River Bridge and the launch of activities for LA, Glendale and Griffith Park via bike and run activities! We are all for connecting the 51 miles of the River and fun access with connectivity points.

Summary

The broad consensus obtained from the first community workshop was as follows:

- Flower Plaza Park area is the preferred location for the LA River Bridge.
- Verdugo Wash Bridge crossing is needed.
- A simple elegant bridge design is preferred.
- Parking availability is a concern.

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**Glendale Narrows Riverwalk-Community Meeting #1
"Jewel at the Bend"**

APPENDIX A

Agenda



**GLENDALE NARROWS RIVERWALK PROJECT
"JEWEL AT THE BEND"
PHASES II AND III
COMMUNITY MEETING #1 – PACIFIC COMMUNITY CENTER GYMNASIUM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014
MEETING TIME: 6:30 – 8 PM**

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions - Roubik Golanian, City of Glendale

Project Background and Brief History - Jess Duran, City of Glendale

Project Team introduction - Jess Duran, City of Glendale

Review of Outreach Process and Mechanics - Katherine Padilla Otanez

MP/Constraints and Opportunities - John Merkler

How Site Locations Inform Bridge Design - Joe Tognoli

Moderation of Workshop Discussion - Sam Gennaway

Documentation of comments during discussion - Katherine Padilla Otanez

Wrap up of point and collecting of similar comments/Stay Informed - Sam Gennaway

Next Steps - John Merkler/Joe Tognoli

Thank You - City of Glendale

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APPENDIX B

Flyer

The City of Glendale invites you to discuss the Glendale Narrows Riverwalk Bridge connecting Glendale to Los Angeles and Griffith Park.



COMMUNITY MEETING #1

Thursday, September 11, 2014

6:30 – 8 pm

Pacific Community Center Gymnasium

501 S. Pacific Avenue

Glendale, CA 91204

MEETING TOPIC: Location and concept of a LA River and Verdugo Wash bridge

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Peter Vierheilig, R.L.A., Project Manager

City of Glendale, Public Works Engineering

(818) 937-8263 • pvierheilig@glendaleca.gov

Refreshments will be served

Glendale Narrows Riverwalk Project, Phases II and III “Jewel at the Bend”

The Vision: Glendale Narrows Riverwalk is a unique community amenity that will increase access for residents and visitors to the L.A. River and Griffith Park, improve connectivity and safety to bicycle, pedestrian, and possibly equestrian paths, and provide a gateway to the Grand Central Creative Campus, River Glen Opportunity Area, and the San Fernando Creative Corridor.



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APPENDIX C

Power Point Presentation



GLENDALE NARROWS RIVERWALK PROJECT “JEWEL AT THE BEND”



Community Workshop #1 | September 11, 2014

CITY OF GLENDALE

Community Services & Parks

Marc Stirdivant

Emil Tatevosian

Public Works

Peter Vierheilig

Kevin Carter

DESIGN TEAM

Atkins – PM/Engineering

John Merkler AIA

TY Lin – Bridge Design

Joe Tognoli

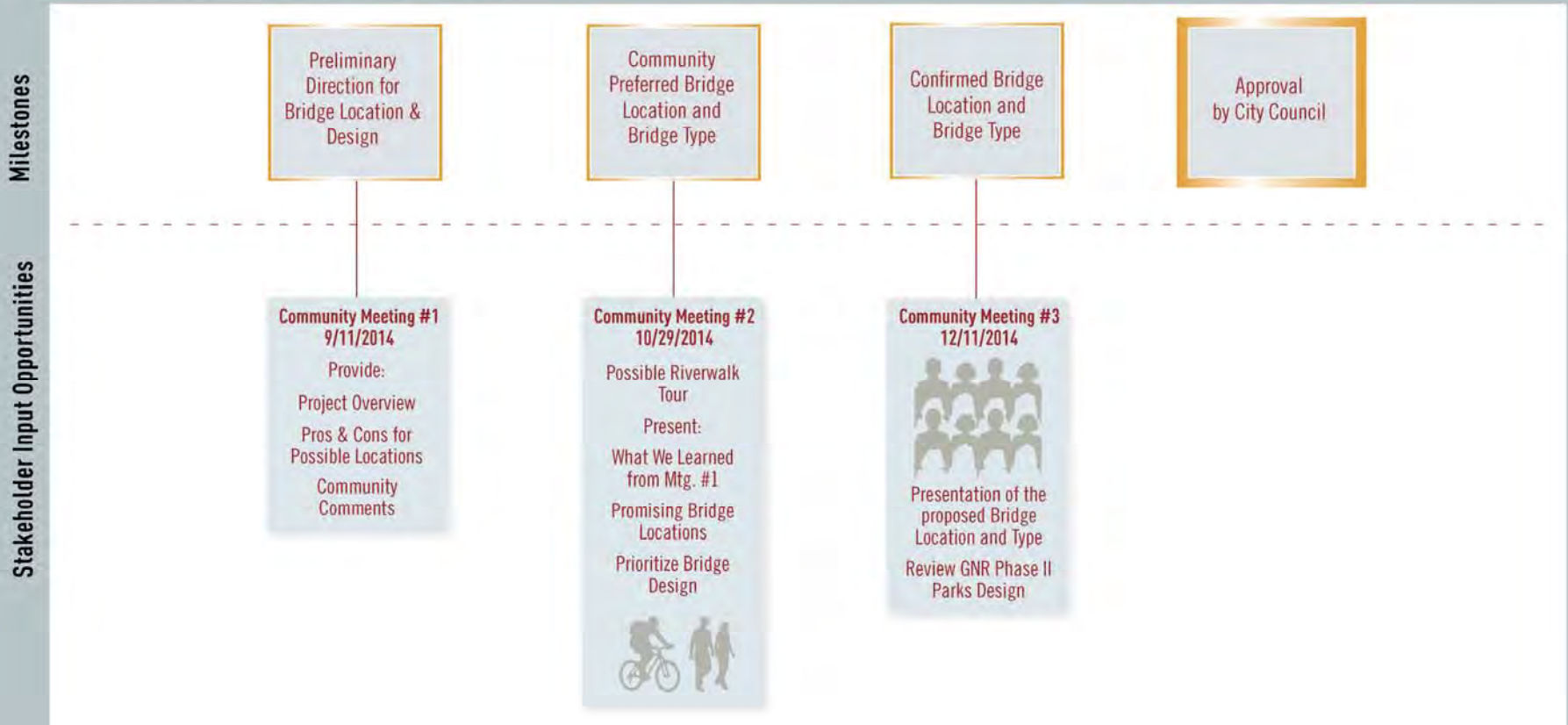
Katherine Padilla Associates – Outreach

Katherine Padilla

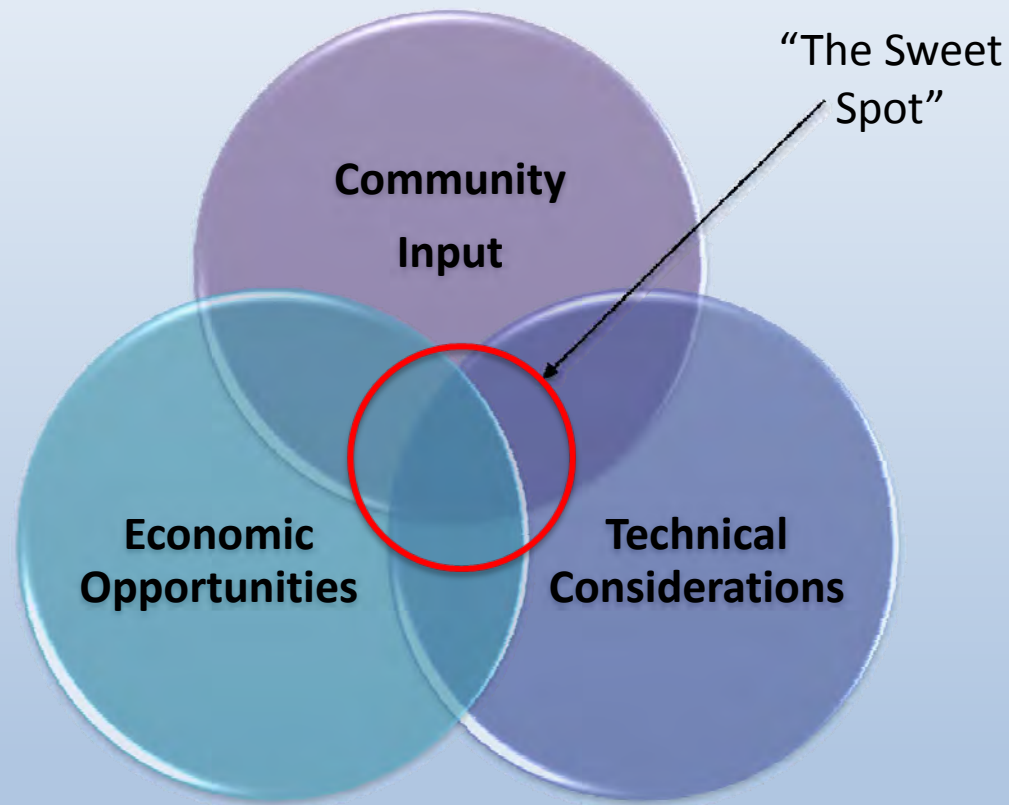
Glendale Riverwalk Phases II and III

A Joint Community/City Partnership

The Public Participation Process:



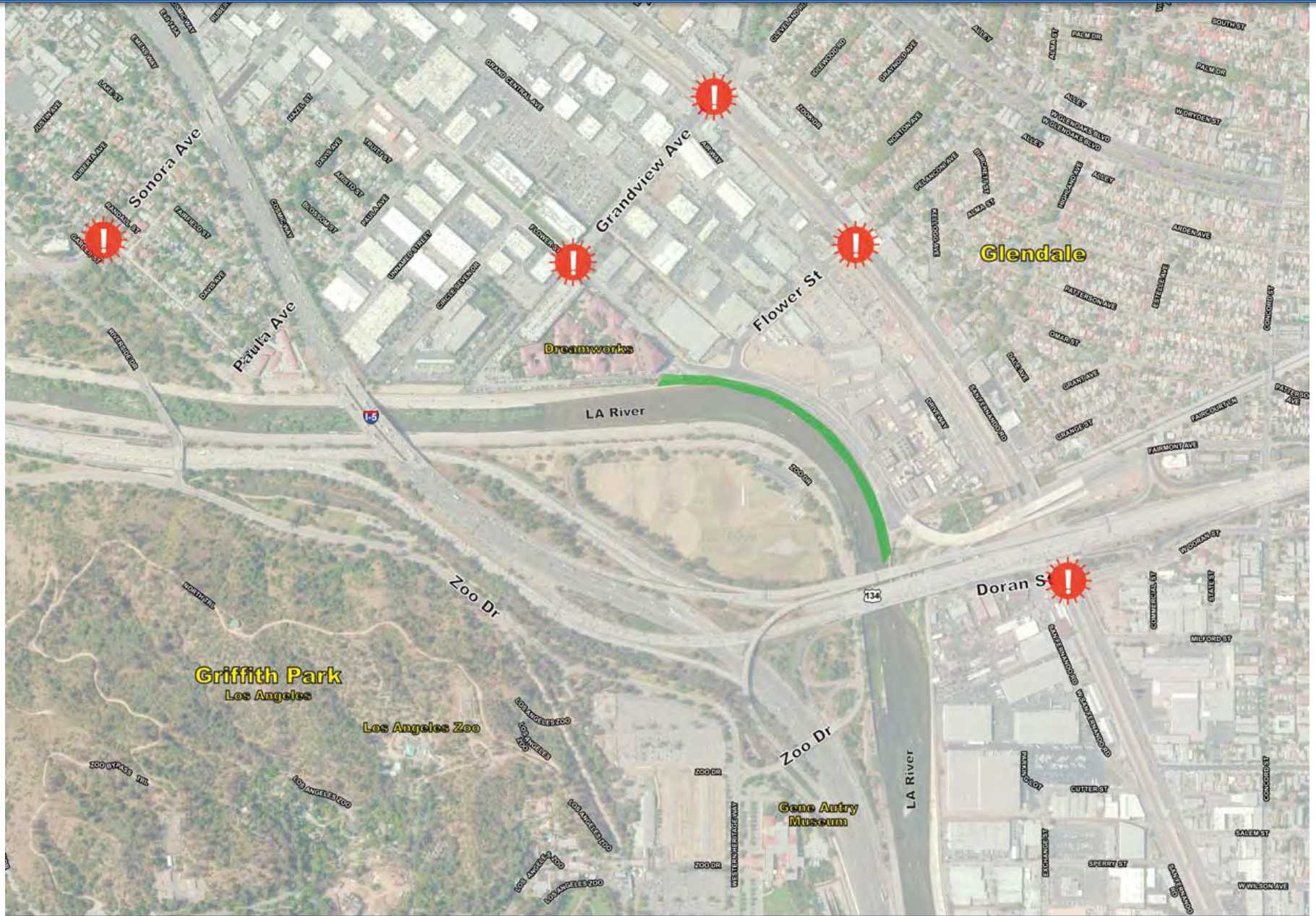
KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING PROJECT DECISIONS



EXISTING RIVERWALK PHASE 1



ACCESS





 Riverwalk Phase II  Proposed Gateway

GLENDALE NARROWS RIVERWALK PROJECT - "JEWEL AT THE BEND"

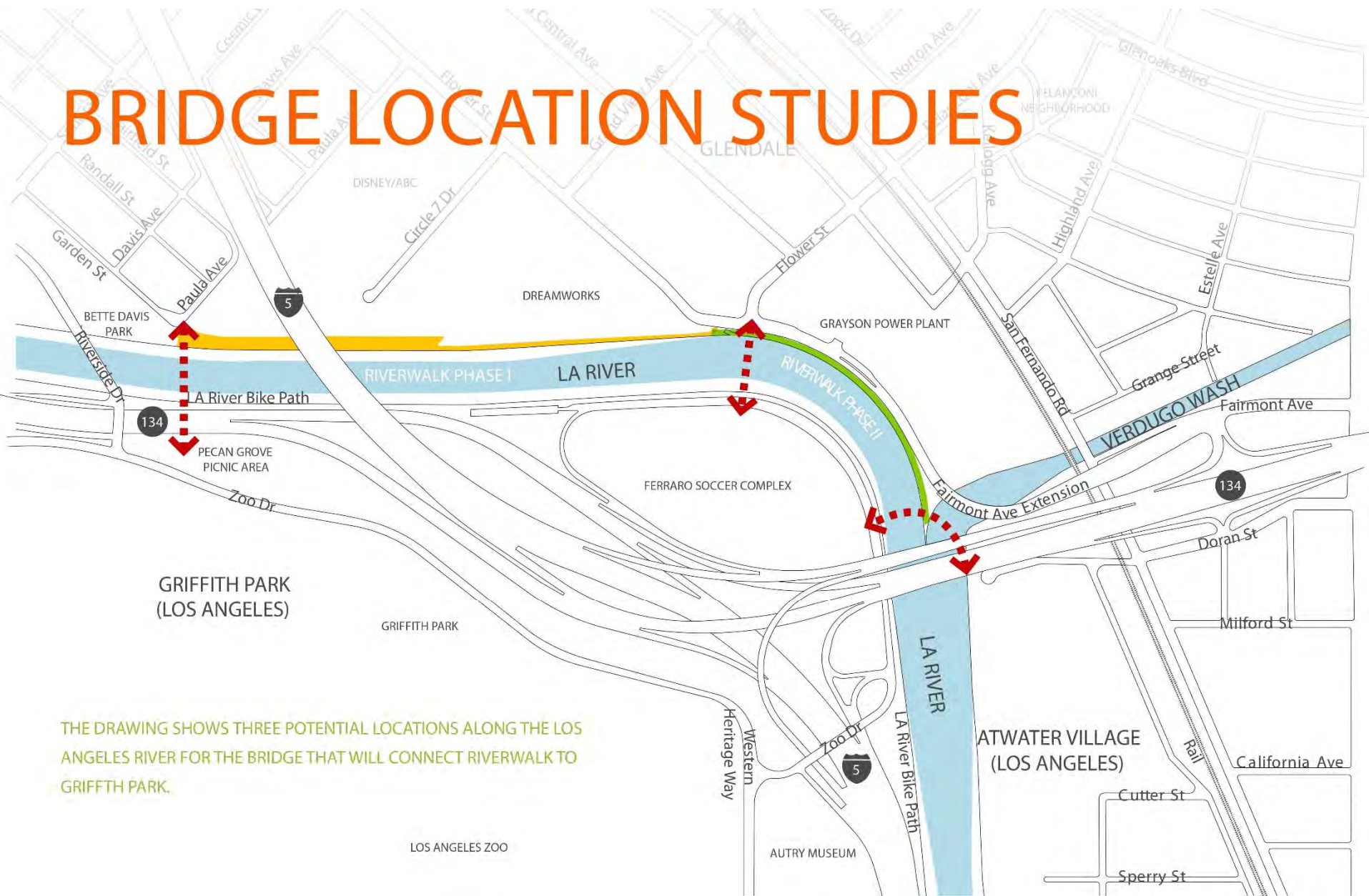
GATEWAYS



 Riverwalk Phase II  Proposed Access Point

GLENDALE NARROWS RIVERWALK PROJECT - "JEWEL AT THE BEND"

BRIDGE LOCATION STUDIES



THE DRAWING SHOWS THREE POTENTIAL LOCATIONS ALONG THE LOS ANGELES RIVER FOR THE BRIDGE THAT WILL CONNECT RIVERWALK TO GRIFFITH PARK.

Bridge Design



Bridge should consider Glendale's Rancho history
Bridge should be similar to existing historical bridges of the area
The bridge design should not look thematic
Bridge design should take into account Western cinematic history of Glendale
Bridge design should take into account already existing historical nature of Griffith Park
The bridge should be wide enough to comfortably accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists
A utilitarian aesthetic may best be suited for the bridge so that the existing nature of the site is highlighted
The bridge design could take into account the fact that an airport used to be located where Disney is currently
Bridge could connect to the LA Zoo
Bridge design should be historic in nature
The bridge should be a very visible, Gateway element
Bridge could incorporate interpretive signage or kiosks with historic/nature-oriented information
Griffith Park is a historic monument and has historic structures on its grounds that the bridge should take into account
Bridge design should remain as natural and simple as possible
Bridge presents an opportunity to explain/interpret historic aspects of Glendale
The bridge design itself should tell a story about Glendale and therefore not need have kiosks or interpretive signage
Bridge design might take into account the frog, ostrich, and flower farms that once existed close to the site
Bridge design should continue on the aesthetic of existing historic bridges like Riverside Drive bridge
Bridge design should take into account cinematic history of Glendale
The bridge should be high enough for visibility from afar
Bridge could serve an educational purpose

Contextual emphasis

Interpretive & educational purpose

Visible gateway element

Create access to local amenities



STRUCTURE IN CONTEXT

BORREGAS AVENUE BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN OVERCROSSING — BOX GIRDER BRIDGE



BELMONT AVENUE BRIDGE — BOX GIRDER BRIDGE



ROSE CREEK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE — BOX GIRDER BRIDGE



PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE — BOX GIRDER BRIDGE



HARBOR DRIVE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE — SUSPENSION BRIDGE



LUSAIL PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES — CABLE STAYED BRIDGE



TEMPE TOWN LAKE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE — ARCH BRIDGE



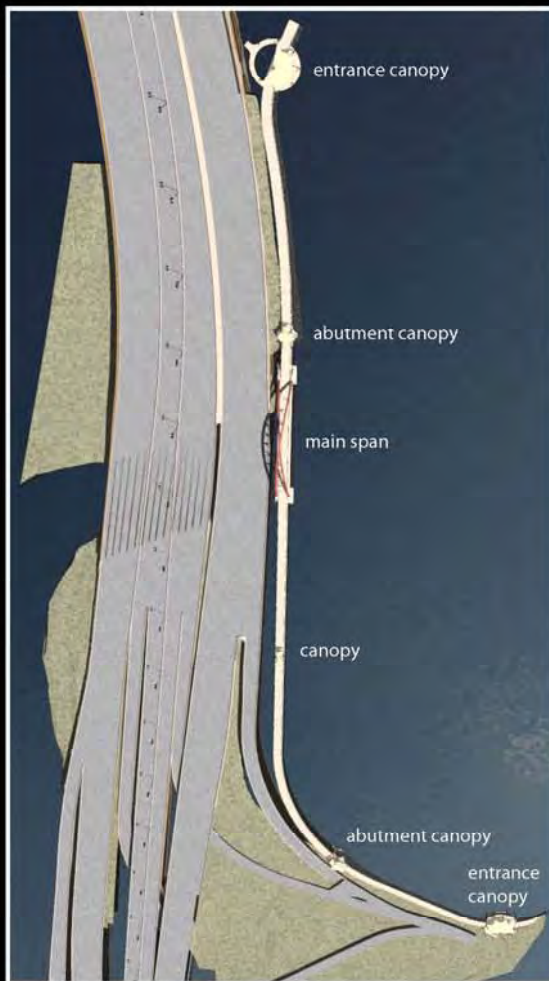
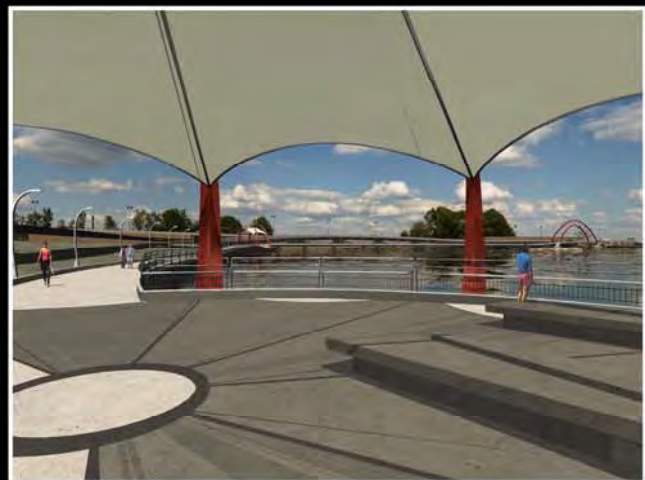
LAKE HODGES BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE — STRESS RIBBON BRIDGE



I-4 LAKE IVANHOE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE — ARCH BRIDGE

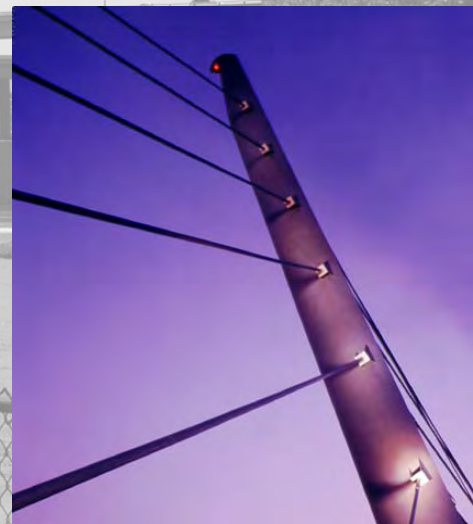
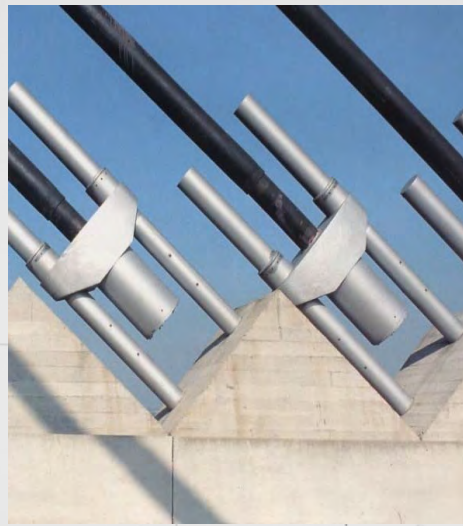


I-4 LAKE IVANHOE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE — ARCH BRIDGE



MARY AVENUE BRIDGE, EMERYVILLE AMTRAK STATION BRIDGE, AND BERKELEY AQUATIC PARK BRIDGE





DETAILS



HARBOR DRIVE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



HARBOR DRIVE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



HARBOR DRIVE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



- **Community Meeting #2**

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

Project Walk, 4 - 5:30 pm, GNR Entry Park,
intersection of Paula Street & Garden Avenue
Sign up this evening for the Project Walk!

Project Meeting, 6:30 – 8 pm

Pacific Community Center Gymnasium
501 S. Pacific Avenue, Glendale, CA 91204

- **Community Meeting #3**

Thursday, December 11, 2014

6:30 – 8 pm

Pacific Community Center Gymnasium
501 S. Pacific Avenue, Glendale, CA 91204

- Contact Peter Vierheilig, R.L.A.
Project Manager, City of Glendale
Public Works Engineering
at (818) 937-8263, or
pvierheilig@glendaleca.gov



THANK YOU!